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Position of Women in Different Era

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Abstract:

The research paper deals with the position of women in different Era. Women play an important role in Indian society. Ancient Indian the women had a high social status and were in excellent health ,equality, education, marriage and family life, caste and gender, women in contemporary Indian society, in the context of religion and culture preserve or diminish their ancient and medieval status. Vedic women enjoyed financial independence. Some women teachers was working as. The place of production was the home. Home spinning and clothes were made by weaving. Women help their husbands in agricultural work. Also cooperate in the religious field, women had full rights and she often participated in rituals with her husband. Husband and both wives participated in religious rituals and sacrifices. Till here that active participation of women was also seen in religious discussions. The whole there was some improvement in the status of women during the Buddhist period, but not much women have an important place in ancient Indian literature. Ancient there were many educated women in India. In this paper we Discuss women in India on the status of sociology, ancient and medieval period.

Keywords: Ancient, Medieval, Religious, Buddhist, Rituals

Status of women in Sandhav Society:

Women had a respectable place in the Sandhav society. Women participated in religious and social ceremonies equally with men. Their main work was in child rearing and household. Women used to spin yarn in their spare time. This has been confirmed by the spinning wheels recovered from every house during the evening excavation. At that time the practice of purdah was also not popular.

Women's education in the Vedic Period:

When we consider the status of women in the society of the Vedic period, it is known that traditionally in the history of India, the status of women was higher than in other parts of the world. Except Indian religion, no religion in the world gives so much priority to a woman. A beautiful example of this is the Hindu marriage system. Marriage is considered a religious act in Indian Hindu culture. In marriage, Kanyadaan is done by the girl's side in which it is shown that the boy's side is the petitioner and the girl's side is the donor and the donor's side is always older than the petitioner. Another excellent idea of this type is found in the scriptures that God has divided this world into two parts one male and another female, i.e. giving equal place to woman and man. Furthermore, as Ardhanarishvara is envisioned, it is said that human life has evolved



from the union of men and women. It also indicates that men and women are completely equal and cannot have each other's faults. In comparison to the Rig Vedic society, the life span of women in the later Vedic society was very difficult. Many great empires emerged in the later Vedic period and each of them maintained an aggressive nature. The caste system is one of the gradual factors increasing its pace. As the later Vedic period started, the status of women started to decline and bad practices like dowry system started gaining their place in the society. Huge variations were seen in the caste system in the later Vedic civilization. Such as the traditional four- caste system classes commonly known as Kshatriya, Brahmin, Shudra and Vaishya still exist in modern times. However, several sub- castes emerged in addition to the historical four castes. Regarding the caste system during the Later Vedic period, women are unable to get a higher position for themselves as compared to the Rig Vedic period. During the later Vedic period women were not allowed to participate and perform in religious activities and were also not allowed to join politics. Furthermore, wedding guidelines became sensible for the bride. In the later Vedic period, women did not have the right to basic equality and were unable to enjoy their domestic life. Women were given very few rights and low- class status in the later Vedic period. A woman was not treated as a wife of men, but as a substance for the satisfaction of lust. In the later Vedic period, women were deprived of their properties and were not considered essential for political and economic development. The medieval period (the period between 500 AD and 1500 AD) proved to be extremely disappointing for Indian women, their situation worsened during this period.

Medieval India was not an era of Women, it is considered a 'dark age' for them. When foreign conquerors like Muslims invaded India, they brought their culture with them. For them a woman was the sole property of her father, brother or husband and had no will of her own. This type of thinking became ingrained in the minds of Indian people and they also started behaving like this with their own women. Another reason for the decline in women's status and freedom was that the native Indians wanted to protect their women from the barbaric Muslim invaders. Since polygamy was the norm for these invaders, they would take any woman they wanted and keep her in their "harem". So that they can be protected, Indians. The practice of dying on the funeral pyre of one's husband is called "Sati" or "Sahagamana". According to some Hindu scriptures, women who die on their husband's funeral pyre go straight to heaven so it is good to practice this ritual. Initially it was not mandatory for women but if she followed such practice then she got a lot of respect in the society. Sati was considered a better option than living as a widow because the plight of widows was worse in Hindu society. There are different opinions in some scriptures like 'Medhatithi', they say that the practice



of Sati is equivalent to committing suicide, hence it should be avoided.

Jauhar:

This is also more or less similar to Sati, but it is a mass suicide. Jauhar was prevalent in Rajput society. In this tradition, wives used to commit suicide while their husbands were still alive. When the people of Rajput dynasty were convinced that they were going to die at the hands of their enemy all the women arranged a big pyre and set themselves on fire while their husbands fought the last decisive battle known as "Shaka". Was known. Enemy. Thus the sanctity of women and the entire clan is protected.

Child Marriage:

This was a norm in medieval India. Girls were married at the age of 8-10 years. They were not allowed access to education and were treated as material beings. The plight of women can be imagined from a verse of Tulsidas where he writes "Dhol, Gawar, Shudra, Pashu, Nari, all these are the officers of punishment". That means animals, uneducated people, lower castes and women had to be beaten. Thus women were compared to animals and were married at an early age. Child marriage also brought with it some other problems like increase in birth rate, poor health of women due to frequent childbearing and high mortality rate of women and children.

Conclusion:

There was no competition for the dignity of women in the Rigvedic period. She was free and there were little restrictions on her in the society. Evils like child marriage and purdah system had not yet come, women were free- spirited. She could participate in social activities without any restrictions. She received higher education and also had the Upanayana Sanskar. There are also mentions of some women going to the battlefield. The position of wife appears to be high in Rigveda. In the later Vedic period, the status of women continued to decline and their condition went from bad to worse. The rituals worsened his condition. He was deprived of all rights. The practice of evil practices like child marriage, purdah system, sati system and polygamy started during this period. The state of misery extends to enjoyment and entertainment. This situation continues in the society till today.



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